had already been laid down. In this regard, India had suggested to the Chairman of the TNC to consider ways and means of making the meeting of the TNC more productive and purposeful. India would continue to take steps at bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral levels, both with developed and developing country partners aimed at resolution of all the development-related issues on a top priority basis so as to have a successful outcome at the Cancun Ministerial Conference.

Posts lying vacant in Cardiology Department of G. B. Pant Hospital

3897. SHRIPRASANTACHATTERJEE:
SHRIMATICHANDRAKALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several posts in Cardiology Department of G.B Pant Hospital are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in filling up the vacancies; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed by Government to ensure prompt appointment of Cardiac Specialists in G.B. Pant Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The recruitment process has been delayed for want of approval of the "Screening Committee" which is now necessary as per the instructions of the Department of Personnel & Training. A proposal for filling up the vacant posts on *ad-hoc* basis is being sent to the Department of Personnel & Training for their approval.

Medical insurance

3898. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that only 0.2 per cent of India's population is covered under medical insurance compared to more than 75 per cent in developed countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 80 per cent of India's rural population do not have access to advanced medical treatment; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard for providing medical facilities in villages and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The four public sector general insurance companies have been selling "Mediclaim Insurance Policy". The information relating to number of persons covered under mediclaim policy during the past five years is given below:—

Year	Number of persons covered
1999-2000	48,94,129
2000-2001	61,05,977
2001-2002	77,84,491

(b) and (c) The Government has announced the National Health Policy, 2002 during this year. The main objective of this Policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country by adopting the approach of increasing access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in different areas, and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions.

Health is a State subject. State Governments take necessary steps to improve their health care delivery system including establishment of vast network of primary health care institutions as per the prescribed norms.

Knowledge of contraceptives

†3899. SHRIMATIKUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of knowledge of contraceptives and their usage, about 600 women die everyday during delivery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure its awareness and usage of contraceptives among women?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.